

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the claims to clarify that the resin composition in the claimed aqueous coating liquid consists essentially of an aqueous polyester resin as component (A) and at least one compound selected from the group consisting of a water-soluble titanium chelate compound, a water-soluble titanium acylate compound, a water-soluble zirconium chelate compound and a water-soluble zirconium acylate compound as component (B). This amendment follows along the disclosure in this application of the particular benefits obtained by using a coating liquid that contains nothing beyond components (A) and (B) that would affect the basic and novel characteristics of the invention as claimed. For example, at page 4, line 27- page 5, line 9, of the specification, we find:

The inventors have focused on the refractive index of the readily-adhesive layer and controlled the refractive index of the readily-adhesive layer by selecting the type and content of the resin and additive components for the readily-adhesive layer in such a manner that the refractive index differences between the polyester film base and the readily-adhesive layer and between the readily-adhesive layer and the hard coating layer can be reduced, respectively, and thus have found that rainbow reflections can be suppressed under fluorescent lamps while the adhesion to the hard coating layer and the adhesion at high temperature and high humidity (resistance to humidity and heat) can be maintained.

The inventors have also disclosed, at page 5, line 28- page 6, line 7, of the specification:

When a hard coating layer is laminated on the readily-adhesive layer of the optical readily-adhesive polyester film of the invention, the film of the invention demonstrates excellent antireflective properties to suppress the reflection of external light, glare, rainbow reflections, and the like and exhibits excellent adhesion to the hard coating layer and exhibits excellent adhesion at high temperature and high humidity (resistance to humidity and heat).

Thus, amending the claims as applicants have results in the claims covering the coating layer that produces the desirable results of the invention. No new matter has been added by these amendments, which should be entered.

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) on JP '550 in view of Yano. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner reads JP '550 as disclosing a polyester film which has a coating comprising a sulfonated polyester resin containing 0.5-1.5 mol% of sulfonate groups and a zirconium compound such as zirconium acetate in a ratio of 100,000/5 to 100,000/50,000. The Examiner cites Yano as disclosing that it is well-known to apply copolyester films to biaxially oriented polyester films in order to produce films having improved adhesion and film-handling properties. The Examiner reasons that it would have been obvious to use known polyesters, presumably the materials disclosed in JP '550, as binders for the coatings disclosed in Yano. The difficulty with the Examiner's reasoning is that Yano teaches against it and JP '550 does not relate to aqueous coatings.

JP '550 discloses thermoplastic films that have polyester-containing layers laminated to them. JP '550 does not disclose the kind of coating to which Yano relates, nor does it disclose that such a coating would (or should) be aqueous. Thus, persons of ordinary skill in the art would not have looked to JP '550 at all to deal with problems in or to make improvements to the films Yano discloses.

All of Yano's coating layers contain either a polyester resin, an acrylic resin and wax or a polyester and an acrylic resin having an oxazoline group and an alkylene oxide chain. See, Abstract; col. 2, line 63, to col. 3, line 15. In the background section, Yano also explains that lubricants were conventionally introduced into polyester films and discloses that although it is also known that a laminate having good surface hardness and abrasion resistance is obtained by forming a polyester resin layer on a polyethylene terephthalate layer and then forming a radiation curable layer having specific composition on the polyester resin layer (referring to JP-B 7-80281), the laminate lacks general versatility due to its use of the special curable layer and is not fully satisfactory in terms of adhesion. Col. 2, lines 29-36. Yano indicates that the use of polyester only as a binder causes problem of insufficient adhesion and discloses solving this problem by using copolyester and acrylic resin together as an adhesive.

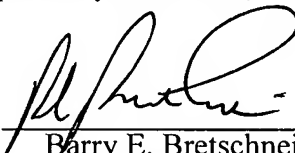
Thus, Yano teaches away from the use as a binder only of polyester resin as disclosed in JP '550. Furthermore, persons of ordinary skill in the art certainly would not have been led by Yano to use the claimed coating liquid, which is claimed in "consisting essentially of" so as to exclude acrylic resin, which is disadvantageous in the invention as disclosed, as a component. Since the claims as amended above do not cover coating layers that contain acrylic resin, it would not have been obvious to look to JP '550 as a disclosure of a coating liquid that a person of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to make the invention as it is, even if one could interpret JP '550 as disclosing aqueous coatings as used in this invention..

Regardless of whether one starts with JP '550 or Yano, the prior art does not teach or suggest the invention as claimed. Accordingly, early action allowing claims 1-10 is solicited.

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